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Florida and southern California. Grasshoppers may devour the crops in Guatemala and the Argentine, and a storm may scatter and destroy a fishing fleet in the North Sea.

What are the distinctive risks of the Arctic? For one thing, in a pioneer region the risk of death is greater than in organized and developed communities. If you break a leg in the Arctic or get typhoid fever there, you cannot call the doctor by telephone or expect him to arrive within the next hour. Not only the pioneer of the Middle West and the Far West but also his wife and children took risks, and many suffered death because of pioneer conditions pure and simple. To that extent the pioneer belt was not friendly. So the prairies of the Far North are to be taken as part of a pioneer zone, where loss of life will be relatively heavy and where friendliness is but relative. It is also true that many people lose their lives because they have not the wit to meet an emergency, but if they truly have not the wit they cannot be blamed for losing their lives. No matter what the sources of a man's thought about it may be, whether in cheap story books or bad textbooks or his own instincts, if he thinks the Arctic is terrible, terrible it is to him, and he can hardly be blamed for it if it drive him to insanity or suicide or only keep him in organized communities where there are kin and so-called comforts and a sense of security. The things that matter in the tendencies of a people are not only the objective facts of their environment but also what they think about the facts. Group behavior is not a good basis for proving that man is a rational animal. The tide will be long in turning to the northern prairies. The Arctic will not be called friendly by the majority of thinking people who read about it even in Stefansson's pages; it is truer to say that the Arctic has been friendly to Stefansson.

A SYMPOSIUM ON POLITICAL PROBLEMS OF MEXICO, CENTRAL AMERICA, AND THE ISLANDS OF THE CARIBBEAN

G. H. BLAKESLEE, edit. **Mexico and the Caribbean.** Clark University Addresses. x and 363 pp. G. E. Stechert & Co., New York, 1920. 9 x 6 inches.

One of the most practical of the attempts that have been made in the last twenty years to obtain a frank exchange of views between thoughtful people in Hispanic America and the United States is this volume of addresses delivered at Clark University in 1920. The organization of the matter, under the editorship of Professor Blakeslee, is most happy. Four introductory chapters deal with fundamental factors, that is capacity for self-government on the part of Mexicans, the character of the Mexican people, the Indian element, and the question of health. A second section takes up special problems, such as oil, railroads, labor, and reconstruction. A third includes a study of recent conditions, the present revolution, the relation of the United States to Latin America, etc.; and a fourth deals with Central America and the islands of the Caribbean.

The best papers in the book are the first and the last. The Honorable T. Esquivel Obregón, Minister of Finance in the Cabinet of Mexico in 1913 and Lecturer on International Law at Columbia University, has a brief introductory paper setting forth six fundamental facts to support a conclusion regarding the capacity for self-government among Mexicans. For our people it is one of the ablest and most constructive political documents in the English language, because it is entirely frank and it springs from a wide knowledge of human nature as well as from a knowledge of the specific problems of the Mexican people. The last address deals with the subject of Porto Rico. While maintaining an attitude of sympathy with the overlordship of the United States, the author, Pedro Capó Rodríguez, Spanish editor of the *American Journal of International Law*, handles the problem of Porto Rican relations in a thoroughly statesmanlike manner.

These and other thoughtful papers in the volume emphasize repeatedly what might be called the first fundamental fact in a study of Hispanic America—that the point of view of the institutions and the spirit of our people and those of Hispanic America are fundamentally dissimilar. The Latin American people look to the older cultures of Europe to satisfy their taste and manners, their philosophy and their ideals. Contributing powerfully to the fostering of this relationship is the better shipping service to England and France from South American ports, the closer similarity of language, and the European view of the social and political problems of the day. There is a racial difference between us and the people of Hispanic America that is even more nearly fundamental. Our ethical standards are unlike; and, though our political forms are superficially similar, there is

the widest divergence of view in the practical application of liberal constitutions to the present needs of the people. Back of this divergence also is an age-old and basic dissimilarity in social and political ideals.

In recent years we have further complicated the problem by advance into the Caribbean, and one after the other of the papers in this volume emphasizes the difficulties and downright antagonisms that have resulted from such an advance. Our people have not gone into Hispanic America in large numbers to settle and develop the country. They have gone in as exploiters for business purposes, and political control under these conditions cannot be anything else than an artificial thing. Our geographical proximity to the Caribbean and to Mexico and Central America has obliged us to establish political relations that are not in harmony with the liberal tendencies of our government and of our time. Yet it has seemed as if we could not escape the imposition of strange political forms and ideals upon the adjacent republics because of the responsibilities that inevitably fall upon us in consequence of our interpretation of the Monroe Doctrine. With an eye single to business and to strategic control we pass over the finer elements in Hispanic American life. We do not cultivate an acquaintance with the lawyers and authors of Hispanic America. We do not seek them out and attempt to understand their point of view. Our business representatives expose but one aspect of American life, and it is this aspect which fills the entire horizon of many Hispanic Americans who try to understand us. The consequence is that our entire culture appears materialistic and to a high degree selfish and even hostile.

The sum of these influences is set forth clearly and unmistakably in one after the other of the addresses in this volume. The geographical and territorial facts recited merely emphasize this conclusion. The book contains little of suggestion as to the settlement of these problems. It merely presents them. It must be read by every geographer who wishes to understand the problems of trade, of human distributions, the development of resources, and the political geography of Hispanic America. For statesmen it is the beginning point in any sound consideration of a problem in international relations that forms one of the two or three major problems confronting the United States today.

ECONOMICS OF ARGENTINE AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS

E. W. SCHMIDT. *Die agrarische Exportwirtschaft Argentiniens.* xv and 296 pp. (Probleme der Weltwirtschaft, No. 33.) Gustav Fischer, Jena, 1920. 9½ x 6½ inches.

If political science includes the economic life of nations Ernst Wilhelm Schmidt, Doctor of Political Science, reflects the greatest credit on his training by this book. It is admirable—a great credit to German science and scholarship.

The "Economics of Argentine Agricultural Exports" deals with the grain and cattle products of the Argentine Republic. It is clearly written and illustrates its points by means of 82 little tables which are wonderfully illuminating. The list of them does a good deal to take the place of the missing index. The treatment is strictly scientific, a statement of relations and elaboration and demonstration, unenlivened by pictures or expressions of feeling. Reference to the author's year of travel in the Argentine is limited to the preface.

For Schmidt the Argentine Republic is restricted to the "main agricultural zone," contained in the provinces Buenos Aires, Santa Fé, Córdoba, Entre Ríos, and the Territory of the Pampa Central. This is the geographic region known as the Pampa. Its area is about a quarter that of the Republic. It is a great treeless, pebbleless plain of loess, well supplied with humus, with a mild, temperate climate and rains that usually suffice for crops, though recurrent droughts are a great drawback. It is covered with natural grasses that are "tender" (*pasto tierno*) in the southeast—Buenos Aires, southern Santa Fé, and Entre Ríos—and tougher, less nutritious (*pasto fuerte*) in the north, southwest, and west. On these plains the Spaniards released Andalusian cattle brought in the sixteenth century from Spain by way of Peru. They multiplied rapidly, a tough, bony breed, equally resistant to weather, thirst, hunger, and the teeth of the consumer. But the hides made good leather and the meat, lacking fat, was most suitable to make jerked beef. The hides were the only commodity the early Argentines had to exchange for European wares with the smuggling English and Portuguese at a time when Spanish colonial policy made trade at Buenos Aires illegal. The founding of the Viceroyalty of the Rio de la Plata and permission to trade with Spain and other colonies gave the trade in hides a great impetus, still more independence (1810), and free intercourse with all nations. By 1820 there had grown up